commission, which escaped attention in the Huzur for want of a professional o... He therefore urged the need for appointing an Engineer-Secretary in the Huz... Office. He next complained that, for ordinary works, the department used to submit three estimates, the cost being greater in the supplemental estimates and still greater in the final memo of costs.

He next said that, as far as Central Travancore was concerned, he was certain that the maintenance of the village roads was not in the least beneficial to the people, because no money was actually spent on the roads. He advocated the desirability of discontinuing the maintenance of village roads and applying the savings for converting a few of them into cart-roads gradually.

He then pressed on the attention of the Government the question of the establishment of taluk and village boards and the desirability of entrusting those boards with a good portion of the minor works now executed by the Public Works Department, together with the funds allotted for such works.

The Member proposed that the whole State might be divided into five P. W. Divisions: *viz.* from Cape Comorin to Neyyattinkara, including the Kodayar Works, one division; from Neyyattinkara to Attungal, including the Trivandrum town, one division; from Attungal to Kottayam, with the head-quarters at Mavelikara, one division; and the remaining portion, one division. The fifth division would be the Workshop Division. He thought that the canals might be placed under the Workshop Engineer. The maistries of the department might also be made permanent.

In conclusion, the Member said that the prayer of the people of the Karunagapalli taluk for roads did not so far receive the attention of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

62. Some defects of the Public Works Department and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. P. C. Krishna Pillai (Member, Vaikam taluk) said that it was regrettable that the prayers of the Members for roads and bridges were refused on the ground of want of funds, while the cost on account of establishment in the department had been steadily increasing from Rs. 2,87,760 in 1085 to Rs. 4,64,588 in 10... The staff in the department was capable of considerable reduction. The allotment on works was mainly devoted to the construction of costly buildings in the town. The provision in the estimates for a profit of 15% to the contractors who executed the works would give the Government some idea of the wastage of money. Costly wells were erected by the department at certain places and the works turned out to be utterly useless for want of adequate knowledge of local conditions on the part of the officers concerned. He quoted the instance of the outlets to drain off the *Kaa*... from the Vaikam temple and the impure water from the temple tank, which were constructed at a cost of Rs. 25,000. The outlets were not in working order. The Member suggested that it would be better if the people of the locality were consulted before such works were constructed. He then said that the travellers' bungalow at Shertalay and the additional buildings proposed at Arukutti were unnecessary.

In conclusion, he said that the use of Portland cement had raised the cost of buildings and it might be replaced with advantage by timber from the State forests.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

63. The desirability of a change in the method of distributing the funds allotted to the Public Works Department.

Mr. P. Sankara Pillai (Member, Karunagapalli taluk) said that the annual allotment for the Public Works Department was not equitably distributed among the various taluks of the State. The people of Central and North Travancore were always complaining that they were not having useful public works constructed for them. He suggested that it was desirable to allot, for each taluk, amounts proportionate...

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its revenue and population and with special reference to its actual requirements. He complained that, though Karunagapalli stood very high among the taluks of the State in point of revenue and population, the improvement of the means of communication in the taluk had not yet engaged the serious attention of the Government. The improvement of the Karunagapalli–Krishnapuram road was sanctioned a few years ago, but the work had not yet been completed and was not going on now. A mile at each end of the road had been improved and the work then left in progress. He requested that the improvement of the road might be ordered to be resumed and completed without delay.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

64. Some suggestions in regard to the system of irrigation in South Travancore.

Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) said that the irrigation authorities showed no sympathy to the ryots in the matter of distribution of Kodayar water. Last year, cultivation was started in Tovala and in the adjoining portions of Agastiswaram in the middle of Medam when there was heavy rain. Even then the channels were opened about the 8th of Edavam, water was let out only to the ryots of the cultivated portion. The portion in the Agastiswaram taluk, where cultivation was not started for want of water, was allowed water from the channel only towards the middle of Mithunam. The effect of such late cultivation became still more serious when, at a time water was required to prop up the crop, the dam was closed ten days before the usual date. The channels were closed without giving previous intimation to the ryots. The result was that the crops of even the Tovala ryots failed. The time for applying for *karivu* remission was also over and applications would not now be received. When the people complained last year about non-supply of water, the Government doubted the accuracy of their statement. He prayed that a timely inspection or enquiry be made into the matter this year.

The Member was of opinion that the want of sympathy on the part of the irrigation officers was at the root of all their grievances. To remedy the defect, he suggested that an Irrigation Board should be formed for South Travancore, consisting of the Irrigation Division Officer, the Dewan Peishkar and the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries as its official members, with an equal number of respectable and influential persons as non-official members, and that the distribution of Kodayar water to the ryots should be entrusted to that board, and added that, without such a board, it was impossible for the people to reap the advantages of the costly Kodayar Project.

He then suggested the desirability of storing up in the several major tanks the water coming down the Pazhayar and other streams, during the time the channels are closed. Apart from the use for communal purposes, the stored-up water would lighten the pressure on the Irrigation Department at the beginning of the cultivation season. The flood water in the Pazhayar river in Medam was usually allowed to flow into the Manakudi lake, causing damage to the salt pans at Thamarakulam. He therefore requested that early orders should be issued, in the interests of the Government as well as of the ryots, to conserve in the major tanks the flood water flowing down the Pazhayar and other irrigation channels in the month of Medam.

He next referred to the losses suffered by the ryots by the annual floods in the Pazhayar river and requested that the works sanctioned by the Government for the prevention of the floods should be taken up at an early date.

He also requested that orders might be issued to maintain a constant flow, large or small, in the new channels and sluices during the period they were open for irrigation purposes. The present system of allowing full flow through a channel for a few days and then closing it up for another few days was detrimental to the crops. A similar process was carried on in the sluices also.

Lastly, he complained against the action of the Irrigation officers in insisting on court fee stamps on petitions on irrigation matters in spite of the Government order to the contrary. They interpreted the G. O. in that way. He requested that fresh orders might be issued exempting such petitions and applications from all fees.

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